

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

generating, from at least a portion of ~~[[an]]~~ a first electronic message for an intended recipient, first identification data that uniquely identifies said first electronic message ~~and distinguishes said electronic message from other electronic messages authorized by an originator~~;

associating said first identification data with said first electronic message;

storing said first identification data;

sending to ~~[[an]]~~ said intended recipient said first electronic message with said first identification data;

receiving on behalf of said intended recipient a first confirmation request including said first identification data and requesting confirmation that said first electronic message was authorized by said originator;

comparing said first identification data received in said first confirmation request to said first stored identification data; ~~[[and]]~~

upon determining that said first identification data received in said first confirmation request matches said first stored identification data, responding to said first confirmation request, affirming said first electronic message was authorized by said originator;

~~generating, from at least a portion of a subsequent electronic message for said intended recipient, subsequent identification data that uniquely identifies said subsequent electronic message and distinguishes said subsequent electronic message from other electronic messages authorized by said originator for said intended recipient;~~

~~associating said subsequent identification data with said subsequent electronic message;~~

storing said subsequent identification data;
sending to said intended recipient said subsequent electronic message with said
subsequent identification data;
receiving on behalf of said intended recipient a subsequent confirmation request
including said subsequent identification data and requesting confirmation that said subsequent
electronic message was authorized by said originator;
comparing said subsequent identification data received in said subsequent confirmation
request to said subsequent stored identification data; and
upon determining that said subsequent identification data received in said subsequent
confirmation request matches said stored subsequent identification data, responding to said
subsequent confirmation request, affirming said subsequent electronic message was authorized
by said originator.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein each of said first electronic
message and said subsequent electronic message includes one of a text message, VoIP message,
or instant message.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein each of said first identification
data and said subsequent identification data is derived at least in part from information contained
in one or more of a message header, a message text, and a timestamp, of said first electronic
message or said subsequent electronic message, respectively.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said first identification data and
said subsequent identification data is included in a message header of said first electronic
message and said subsequent electronic message, respectively.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said sending includes attaching said first identification data and said subsequent identification data as an attachment to said first electronic message and said subsequent electronic message, respectively.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said first identification data and said subsequent identification data is included in ~~said message~~ a text of said first electronic message and said subsequent electronic message, respectively.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
calculating a checksum for ~~said message~~ a text of said first electronic message and said subsequent electronic message, respectively; and
including said checksum in said first identification data and said subsequent identification data, respectively.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said receiving a first confirmation request includes receiving said first confirmation request via port-to-port communication; and
wherein said receiving a subsequent confirmation request includes receiving said subsequent confirmation request via port-to-port communication.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said receiving a first confirmation request includes receiving a first confirming electronic message; and
wherein said receiving said subsequent confirmation request includes receiving a subsequent confirming electronic message.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein each of said first or subsequent confirming electronic message messages includes one of a text message, VoIP message, or instant message.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said responding to each of said first or subsequent confirmation request includes responding via port-to-port communication.
42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said responding to each of said first or subsequent confirmation request includes responding with a return electronic message.
43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein each of said first or subsequent return electronic ~~message~~ messages is one of a text message, VoIP message, or instant message.
44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said comparing is performed at a device different from a device at which said associating is performed.
45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said comparing is performed at a device different from a device at which said sending is performed.
46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein each of said first or subsequent identification data is an alphanumeric string.
47. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a sending module operable to:
send to an intended recipient [[an]] at least a first and a subsequent electronic message authorized by an originator and first and subsequent identification data uniquely identifying said first and subsequent electronic ~~message~~ messages, the first and subsequent identification data distinguishing said first and subsequent electronic ~~message~~ messages from other electronic messages authorized by the originator, said first and subsequent identification data being stored for subsequent access, said first

and subsequent identification data being generated from at least a portion of the first and subsequent electronic ~~message~~ messages; and

a confirming module operable to:

- receive on behalf of the intended recipient ~~[[a]]~~ first and subsequent confirmation ~~request~~ requests including said first and subsequent identification data and requesting confirmation that said first and subsequent electronic ~~message~~ was messages were authorized by the originator;
- compare said first and subsequent identification data received in said first and subsequent confirmation ~~request~~ requests to said stored first and subsequent identification data; and
- upon determining that said first and subsequent identification data received in said first and subsequent confirmation ~~request~~ matches requests match said first and subsequent stored identification data, respond to said first and second confirmation ~~request~~ requests, affirming said first and subsequent electronic ~~message~~ was messages were authorized by the originator.

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47, wherein said sending module is operable to send to the intended recipient ~~[[an]]~~ said first and subsequent electronic ~~message~~ messages that ~~includes~~ include one of a text message, VoIP message, or instant message.

49. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47, wherein said first and subsequent identification data was generated from information contained in one or more of a message header, a message text, and a timestamp, of said first and subsequent electronic ~~message~~ messages.

50. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47, wherein said first and subsequent identification data is an alphanumeric string.

51. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47, wherein said first and subsequent identification data is included in a message header of said first and subsequent electronic ~~message~~ messages.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47, wherein said first and subsequent identification data is included in a message text of said first and subsequent electronic ~~message~~ messages.

54. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47, wherein said sending includes attaching said first and subsequent identification data as an attachment to said first and subsequent electronic ~~message~~ messages.

55. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47, further comprising:
calculating a checksum for a text of said ~~message-text~~ first and subsequent electronic ~~messages~~; and
including said checksum in said first and subsequent identification data.

56. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47, wherein said confirmation module is operable to receive said first and subsequent confirmation ~~request~~ requests via port-to-port communication.

57. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47, wherein said confirmation module is operable to respond to said first and subsequent confirmation ~~request~~ requests via port-to-port communication.

58. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47, wherein said confirmation module is operable to receive said first and subsequent confirmation ~~request~~ requests as ~~[[a]]~~ first and subsequent confirming electronic ~~message~~ messages.

59. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 58, wherein said first and subsequent confirming electronic ~~message is~~ messages are one of a text message, VoIP message, or instant message.

60. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47, wherein said confirmation module is operable to respond to said first and subsequent confirmation ~~request~~ requests with a return electronic message.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 60, wherein said return electronic message is one of a text message, VoIP message, or instant message.

62. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a first confirmation request to confirm that ~~[[an]]~~ first electronic message sent to an intended recipient was authorized by an originator identified in the first electronic message, the first confirmation request including first identification data purporting to uniquely identify the first electronic message, ~~the identification data distinguishing said electronic message from other electronic messages authorized by the originator,~~ the first identification data having been generated from at least a portion of the first electronic message;

searching a data store, separate from said first electronic message, for said first identification data; ~~and~~

upon determining that said data store does not contain said first identification data, responding to said confirmation request, denying the first electronic message was authorized by the originator;

receiving a subsequent confirmation request to confirm that a subsequent electronic message sent to an intended recipient was authorized by the originator identified in the subsequent electronic message, the subsequent confirmation request including subsequent identification data purporting to uniquely identify the subsequent electronic message, the subsequent identification data distinguishing said subsequent electronic message from other electronic messages authorized by the originator, the subsequent identification data having been generated from at least a portion of the subsequent electronic message;

searching a data store, separate from said subsequent electronic message, for said subsequent identification data; and

upon determining that said data store does not contain said subsequent identification data, responding to said subsequent confirmation request, denying the subsequent electronic message was authorized by the originator.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62, wherein said receiving a confirmation request includes receiving said first and subsequent confirmation ~~request~~ requests via port-to-port communication.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62, wherein said responding to said first and subsequent confirmation ~~request~~ requests includes responding via port-to-port communication.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62, wherein said receiving ~~[[a]]~~ first and subsequent confirmation request includes receiving ~~[[a]]~~ first and subsequent confirming electronic ~~message~~ messages.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 65, wherein said first and subsequent confirming electronic ~~message is~~ messages are one of a text message, VoIP message, or instant message.

67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62, wherein said responding to said first and subsequent confirmation ~~request~~ requests includes responding with [[a]] first and subsequent return electronic ~~message~~ messages.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67, wherein said first and subsequent return electronic ~~message is~~ messages are one of a text message, VoIP message, or instant message.

69. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a first confirmation request to confirm that [[an]] a first electronic message sent to an intended recipient was authorized by an originator identified in the first electronic message, the first confirmation request including first identification data purporting to uniquely identify the first electronic message, ~~the identification data distinguishing said electronic message from other electronic messages authorized by the originator,~~ the first identification data having been generated from at least a portion of the first electronic message;

searching a data store, independent of said first electronic message, for said first identification data; ~~and~~

upon determining that said data store contains said first identification data, responding to said first confirmation request, affirming the first electronic message was authorized by the originator;

receiving a subsequent confirmation request to confirm that a subsequent electronic message sent to an intended recipient was authorized by the originator identified in the subsequent electronic message, the subsequent confirmation request including subsequent identification data purporting to uniquely identify the subsequent electronic message, the subsequent identification data distinguishing said subsequent electronic message from other electronic messages authorized by the originator, the subsequent identification data having been generated from at least a portion of the subsequent electronic message;

searching a data store, independent of said subsequent electronic message, for said subsequent identification data; and

CUNNINGHAM, Brian D.
Serial No.: 10/803,120
Attorney Dkt. No.: MESSLEV 1

upon determining that said data store contains said subsequent identification data, responding to said subsequent confirmation request, affirming the subsequent electronic message was authorized by the originator.

70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 69, wherein said receiving [[a]] first and subsequent confirmation request requests includes receiving said first and subsequent confirmation request requests via port-to-port communication.

71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 69, wherein said responding to said first and subsequent confirmation request requests includes responding via port-to-port communication.

72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 69, wherein said receiving [[a]] first and subsequent confirmation request requests includes receiving [[a]] first and subsequent confirming electronic message messages.

73. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 72, wherein said first and subsequent confirming electronic message-is messages are one of a text message, VoIP message, or instant message.

74. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 69, wherein said responding to said first and subsequent confirmation request requests includes responding with [[a]] first and subsequent return electronic message messages.

75. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 74, wherein said first and subsequent return electronic message-is messages are one of a text message, VoIP message, or instant message.

76. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

CUNNINGHAM, Brian D.
Serial No.: 10/803,120
Attorney Dkt. No.: MESSLEV 1

receiving from a sending device a first electronic message authorized by an originator, said first electronic message containing first information identifying the originator, the first identifying information having been generated from at least a portion of the first electronic message ~~and distinguishing said electronic message from other electronic messages authorized by an originator;~~

sending to a confirmation device a first confirmation request requesting confirmation that said first electronic message was authorized by the originator;

receiving a response to said first confirmation request affirming said first electronic message was authorized by the originator;

allowing said first electronic message to be further processed according to rules for processing of confirmed electronic messages directed to the intended recipient;

receiving from the sending device a second electronic message different from said first electronic message authorized by the originator, said second electronic message containing second information identifying the originator, the second identifying information having been generated from at least a portion of the second electronic message and distinguishing said second electronic message from other electronic messages authorized by the originator; [[and]]

sending to the confirmation device a second confirmation request requesting confirmation that said second electronic message was authorized by the originator;

receiving a response to said second confirmation request affirming said second electronic message was authorized by the originator; and

allowing said second electronic message to be further processed according to rules for processing of confirmed electronic messages directed to the intended recipient.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein each of said first electronic message and said second electronic message includes one of a text message, VoIP message, or instant message.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein said sending to a confirmation device includes sending said first confirmation request and said second confirmation request via port-to-port communication.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein said receiving a response includes receiving the response via port-to-port communication.

80. (Cancelled)

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein each of said first confirmation request and said second confirmation request is a confirming electronic message.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 81, wherein said confirming electronic message is one of a text message, VoIP message, or instant message.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein said response to said first confirmation is a return electronic message.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said return electronic message is one of a text message, VoIP message, or instant message.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein:
the associating, storing and sending are at a sending module of a sending email system;
and
the receiving, comparing and responding are at a confirmation module of the sending email system.

CUNNINGHAM, Brian D.
Serial No.: 10/803,120
Attorney Dkt. No.: MESSLEV 1

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the receiving, searching and responding are at a confirmation module of a sending email system.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the receiving, searching and responding are at a confirmation module of a sending email system.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein receiving the first electronic message,

sending the first confirmation request,

receiving the response affirming said first electronic message was authorized by the originator,

allowing said first electronic message to be further processed,

receiving the second electronic message, and

sending the second confirmation request are at a receiving email system.